(c) Does not arise.

New FDI Policy

1517. SHRI CHITTBARATA MAJUMDAR:
SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are in the process of finalizing a new Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) policy keeping in view the security concerns;

(b) if so, whether the scrunity concern is country-specific or sector-specific; and

(c) the sectors and countries identified as sensitive *vis-a-vis* India's national security?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): (a) to (c) Government has put in place a liberal Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) policy under which FDI up to 100% is permitted in most sectors and activities. Review of FDI policy is undertaken periodically to review/revise sectoral caps and where necessary, build-in sector-specific sensitivities. FDI policy is incorporated in the Foreign Exchange Management (Transfer or Issue of Security by a Person Resident Outside India) Regulations, 2000 under the Foreign Exchange Management Act. These Regulations indicate the countries from where investment is not permitted.

Increase in Cement Price

†1518. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the price of cement has recently increased sharply in comparison to the price last year;

(b) if so, whether Government are considering to do away with the import duty on cement to control its price and to check recurrence of price increase in future;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) whether Government are going to impose ban on the export of cement; and

(d) if so,the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): (a) to (d) Cement prices have increased between December, 2005 and April 2006 at varying rates across the country, but these have stabilized since may 2006. Cement is a decontrolled commodity and its prices are governed by economic factors, *viz*, input costs, demand and supply, distance from manufacturing place and local taxes, etc. Government had impressed upon the cement manufacturers the need to rationalise cement prices. Responding to it, the Cement Manufacturers' Association had given an undertaking to maximize production and dispatch of cement; ensure that the retailers did not indulge in profiteering; bring in fresh investment to create additional capacities; and supply cement on priority and at 5% discount on the ruling prices to the Central Government departments.

There is no proposal under consideration of the Government to do away with the import duty on cement or ban export of cement.

Proposals for SEZ

†1519. SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total number of proposals for Special Economic Zones received so far by the Central Government as well as State Governments and the names of parties from whom such proposals have been received alongwith their action plans;

(b) the amount of FDI and capital investment proposed to be made; and

(c) the names of foreign as well as indigenous companies and also of

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.